

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, and 45-48 are now pending. Applicants have cancelled claims 16-44 and amended claims 1, 6, 13, 14, and 45.

Applicants' representative would like to thank the Examiner for his consideration during the telephone interview of August 23, 2004. During that interview, applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed proposed amendments to claim 1. The Examiner suggested additional amendments that the Examiner believed would help clarify the invention. Applicants have amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended these claims to address the Examiner's concern.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-48¹ under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hanson. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claims 1-5, as amended, are directed to the display by an electronic mail system of an indication of a collaborative electronic mail message. When the electronic mail system initially receives an indication that an electronic mail message has been received, it displays an indication of the collaborative electronic mail message. As shown in Figure 5 of the application, the list 190 of email identifiers includes one for message 200 which is a collaboration electronic mail message as indicated by "c" in the "c" column. The author of the message is "Frank" as shown in the name column. Claims 1-5 recite that when an indication is received that the collaborative electronic mail message has been modified by a recipient adding a comment to a feedback portion of the electronic mail message, the electronic mail system updates the displayed indication without displaying another indication for the collaborative electronic mail message. According to the specification, the email identifier for message 200 is changed in the way it is displayed (e.g., bold) to the user (i.e., to indicate the

¹ The Office Action states that "claims 1- are rejected." (Office Action, May 28, 2004, p. 3.) Applicant assumes that the Examiner meant to reject claims 1-48.

modification), but another email identifier is not added to list 190. (Specification, 27:22-28:11).

None of the cited references teaches or suggests such display of a single indication of a collaborative electronic mail message that is modified when the collaborative electronic mail message is modified.

Claims 6-15 and 45-48 are directed to sending an electronic mail message corresponding to a collaborative electronic mail message that identifies the author of the collaborative electronic mail message as the sender of the electronic mail message. When an electronic mail message is sent it includes a from field (or from attribute) that identifies the sender of the electronic mail message. Because the from field contains the identity of the sender, the electronic mail system displays the name of the sender in a from column when it displays a list of electronic mail messages. For example, Figure 5 of the application shows that "Frank" is listed in the "from" column for message 200. Claims 6-16 and 45-48 recite this aspect of the invention. For example, claim 6 recites "when an electronic mail system displays the electronic mail message, the creator is displayed as the sender."

According to Hanson, in contrast, a server sends electronic mail messages to the participants to notify them that the collaborative process has been initiated. (Hanson, 9:8-9.) Because the server sends a notification, the server is identified as the "sender" in the electronic mail message. When an electronic mail system displays a list of electronic mail messages, the "from" column would identify the server, rather than the creator. A participant would prefer to see the name of the creator, rather than the name of the server. Applicants' claimed invention overcomes this problem.

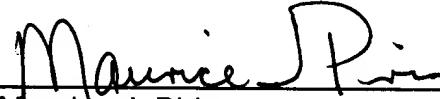
Because the creator is not listed as the sender of Hanson's notifications, Hanson needs to provide some other way to identify the creator to the participants. Hanson does so by adding the name of the creator to the static portion of the body of the electronic mail message. Hanson teaches that the creator's name is included in electronic form 100 in name field 101 (Hanson, 8:37-38) and in the static region 312 of the data structure 350 (Hanson, 8:63-65 and 9:13-55). Hanson teaches that that static region is rendered by a participant's computer when the electronic mail message is

rendered. (Hanson, 11:56-63.) Hanson needs this way to identify a creator, because Hanson's creator is not the "sender" of the electronic mail message.

Based on the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: September 28, 2004



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